

Activity:	State Conservation Grants Administration
------------------	-------------------------------------------------

Activity Summary

Program Component	FY 2004 Enacted	FY 2005 Estimate	FY 2006			Change From 2005 (+/-)
			Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
State Conservation Grants Administration	2,469	1,479	+108	+0	1,587	+108
Total Requirements	2,469	1,479	+108	+0	1,587	+108
<i>Total FTE Requirements</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>0</i>

Authorization

16 U.S.C. 460l et.seq. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965, as amended

Mission Overview

The State Conservation Grants Administration Activity supports the National Park Service mission by contributing to one mission goal for the National Park Service: Through partnerships with other federal, state, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits to the American people. The State Conservation Grants Administration activity contributes to DOI's outcome goals to improve health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources; sustain biological communities; protect cultural and natural heritage resources; provide for a quality recreation experience including access and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources; and, protect lives, resources and properties.

FY 2006 Base Program Overview

The State Conservation Grants Administration activity by administering matching grants to States, and through States to local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities that provide public access to the lands, waters and other recreation resources. This contributes to conserving natural and cultural resources; continuing and promoting State outdoor recreation planning; and promoting a greater commitment by State governments to conserve and improve recreation resources.

The State Conservation Grants Administration activity administers grant projects in cooperation with State partners so as to ensure continuing accountability and compliance with applicable mandates. The administration oversees active grants, closes completed grants, processes grant billings, and resolves audit exceptions. Further tasks include the provision of technical assistance to States in developing and updating Statewide outdoor recreation plans, training of NPS and State staff, and the conducting of on-site reviews of potential recreation sites for compliance with program requirements

FY 2004 Program Performance Accomplishments

- Conducted on-site reviews of 20 recreation sites to ensure compliance with program requirements, and monitored on-site inspection of 3,511 recreation projects.
- Resolved five audit exceptions.
- Negotiated and resolved approximately 55 conversion issues.
- Closed out 292 active grants.

FY 2005 Planned Program Performance

- Award 575 new grants.
- Fund the creation of 20-50 new park and recreation areas.
- Monitor on-site inspections including spot checks of 3,000-5,000 funded recreation sites.
- Resolve approximately five audit exceptions.

- Negotiate and resolve approximately 50-60 conversion issues.
- Close out projected 376 active grants.
- Develop new outcome-oriented performance measures to better demonstrate results for full implementation in FY 2006.

Justification of FY 2006 Budget Request for State Conservation Grants Administration

Request Component	\$ Amount	FTE
FY 2005 Budget Estimate	1,479	20
Programmatic Changes	+0	+0
TOTAL, Program Changes	+0	+0
Uncontrollable changes	+108	N/A
FY 2006 Budget Request	1,587	20
Net change	+108	+0

The FY 2006 budget request for State Conservation Grants Administration is \$1.587 million and 20 FTE, an increase of \$0.108 million from the 2005 enacted level. This will allow staff to focus on accountability and performance of existing grants rather than issuing new grants. Staff will be able to conduct selective evaluations among the approximately 40,000 State planning, acquisition, and development projects and an estimated 32,000 park sites in more than 98 percent of the Nation's counties to determine whether each assisted site remains in public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity.